



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>  
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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

September 19, 2006

Ms. Susan Halpin  
Wastewater Superintendent  
City of Lompoc  
1801 West Central Avenue  
Lompoc, CA 93438-8001

Dear Ms. Halpin:

### **AVAILABILITY OF TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R3-2006-0090, CITY OF LOMPOC REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

This letter is intended to notify you of the availability of tentative Time Schedule Order (Order) No. R3-2006-0090 for City of Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (City).

On July 7, 2006, the Central Coast Water Board issued Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R3-2006-0037 (effective September 8, 2006) to the City. In September 2004, the City began work to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility. The new facility upgrades are designed to consistently decrease nitrate concentrations in the effluent discharge and comply with the new nitrate effluent limitations contained in WDR Order No. R3-2006-0037. This tentative Order requires the City to achieve full compliance with the nitrate effluent limitation identified in the WDR Order No. R3-2006-0037 and prescribes an interim effluent limitation for nitrate. The City is required to comply with the nitrate interim effluent limitation until the final compliance date of this Order.

In accordance with California Water Code Section 13167.5, Order No. R3-2006-0090 is open for a 30-day comment period in which interested persons may download the Tentative Order from our website at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/Permits/Index.htm>.

Persons wishing to comment on the Order must submit comments in writing to the address to below no later than **October 20, 2006**. Please send comments to:

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

If you have questions, please contact David LaCaro at (805) 549-3892 or dlacaro@waterboards.ca.gov, or Harvey Packard at (805) 549-4638.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: 1. Tentative Time Schedule Order No. R3-2006-0090

CC (w/o Enclosures): City of Lompoc WWTP IPL (*Please file IPL copy with original letter*)

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***California Environmental Protection Agency***

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

**DRAFT TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R3-2006-0090**

**REQUIRING THE CITY OF LOMPOC  
TO COMPLY WITH THE EFFLUENT LIMITATION FOR NITRATE REQUIREMENTS  
PRESCRIBED IN WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R3-2006-0037**

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board finds that:

1. The City of Lompoc (City) owns and operates a domestic/municipal wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system (i.e., Publicly Owned Treatment Works, or POTW) known as the City of Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (Facility). The Facility also treats and disposes of wastewater from Vandenberg Air Force Base and Vandenberg Village Community Services District. The Facility is located at 1801 W. Central Avenue, Lompoc, California.
2. On July 7, 2006, The Central Coast Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R3-2006-0037, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CA0048127. Order No. R3-2006-0037 regulates the discharge of secondary treated effluent from the Facility to San Miguelito Creek, which is tributary to the Santa Ynez River (waters of the United States), located within the Santa Ynez River Hydrologic Unit. The Order's effective date is September 8, 2006.
3. Order No. R3-2006-0037 prescribes the following effluent limitation for nitrate (as N).

Parameter	Units	Maximum Daily
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	10

4. Treatment at the Facility currently consists of mechanical bar screens, two primary clarifiers, one biofilter, one aeration tank, three secondary clarifiers, and a chlorine contact tank. Sludge handling includes one gravity thickener, two sludge digesters, two sludge lagoons, drying beds, and offsite disposal. The existing treatment facility does not enable the City to comply with the nitrate limitation in Order No. R3-2006-0037.
5. In September 2004, the City began work to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility. The upgrades are designed to ensure compliance with permit limitations, improve consistency of effluent quality, improve existing facilities, provide state-of-the-art instrumentation and control systems, increase capacity, and provide redundancy for some existing facilities. Phased construction is scheduled to begin in November 2006, with estimated completion 27 to 30 months after the beginning of construction (spring 2009).

6. The Facility's upgrade design includes: a replaced influent pumping station; grit removal and handling with aerated grit tank, grit classifiers, and washers; biological treatment in two parallel oxidation ditches; and ultraviolet disinfection. Waste activated sludge and scum will be thickened in two dissolved air flotation thickeners before being anaerobically digested in the existing digesters before disposal. New boilers will burn digester gas to heat the digesters. Order No. R3-2006-0037 contains a nitrate limitation for discharges to San Miguelito Creek. The Facility's upgrades are designed to consistently decrease nitrate concentrations in the discharge and comply with the new nitrate limitation in Order No. R3-2006-0037.
7. By letter dated May 12, 2006, the City requested a time schedule order establishing an interim nitrate limitation until its Facility upgrade is complete.
8. California Water Code Section 13300 states:

"Whenever a Regional Board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the Regional Board, or the State Board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements."
9. The City's compliance history indicates it cannot achieve immediate compliance with the new nitrate effluent limitation in Order No. R3-2006-0037; therefore, a discharge of waste is taking place that threatens to violate requirements prescribed by the Central Coast Water Board.
10. Exceedances of the Order No. R3-2006-0037 nitrate effluent limitation will not be subject to mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to California Water Code Section 13385 (h) and (i), provided the City complies with all of the requirements of this Order, including the interim nitrate effluent limitation.
11. This Order requires the City to implement Facility upgrades that will allow the City to achieve full compliance with Order No. R3-2006-0037 nitrate effluent limitations and prescribes an interim limitation for nitrate for the Facility until the final compliance date of this Order. The schedule for upgrade is as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect the design, development, and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the final nitrate effluent limitation.
12. The Central Coast Water Board has delegated to its Executive Officer all powers and duties authorized by California Water Code Section 13223, including the authority to issue an Order pursuant to Section 13300. The Executive Officer may take any action reserved to the Central Coast Water Board under this Order, except as otherwise provided by statute.

13. The Central Coast Water Board has notified the City and interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue a time schedule order concerning violations or threatened violations of waste discharge requirements.

14. This enforcement action is taken for the protection of the environment and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13320, any aggrieved party may seek review of this Order by filing a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board. A petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel, 1001 I Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California, 95812, within 30 days of adoption of this Order.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to California Water Code Section 13300, that the City of Lompoc shall:

1. Comply with the following interim nitrate effluent limitation commencing upon the effective date of Order No. R3-2006-0090:

Parameter	Units	Maximum Daily
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	36

2. Complete the following tasks on or before the specified dates:

Task	Completion Date
Submit a Pollution Prevention Plan <sup>1</sup>	December 31, 2006
Implement the Pollution Prevention Plan, including any revisions required by the Executive Officer	February 1, 2007
Notice to Proceed for Construction Issued to Contractor <sup>2</sup>	No Later than January 31, 2007
Quarterly Reports Regarding Construction <sup>3</sup>	To Begin after Notice to Proceed is Issued
Complete Construction	No later than January 1, 2011
Final Report <sup>4</sup>	90 Days after construction is completed

<sup>1</sup> Plan development will be in accordance with California Water Code Section 13263.3(d)(3)

<sup>2</sup> City will provide a copy of the Notice to Proceed to the Central Coast Water Board once the Notice is issued to the Contractor. City will also provide an estimated completion date.

<sup>3</sup> Timeline for quarterly reports will begin January 2007, and last until construction completion. Quarterly reports shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- A brief summary of progress during the reporting quarter (significant activities)
- Problems/solutions encountered during construction
- Time schedule setbacks
- Significant changes to the project that may affect this order
- Next quarter activities

<sup>4</sup> Final status report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- Summary of project completion and start up
- Any data that demonstrates reduced concentrations of nitrate (as N)
- Explanation of long-term maintenance and operations

3. Comply with the final effluent limitation for nitrate contained in Order No. R3-2006-0037 by January 1, 2011.
4. If the City fails to comply with any provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may issue an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13323, and 13385(a)(4) and (c). The Central Coast Water Board may also refer the case to the Attorney General for injunction and civil monetary remedies, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13385(a)(4) and (b), and 13386.
5. All provisions of Order No. R3-2006-0037 are in full force and effect.
6. This order shall take effect on the date signed by the Executive Officer. The Central Coast Water Board may modify or rescind this Order at any time during the duration of this Order.

Dated: October 21, 2006.

ORDERED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Officer